

**Steering Committee Meeting**  
*September 16, 2005*  
*Country Inn & Suites – Capital Room*

Facilitator: Richard Mettler

Members Present:

Richard Nelson	Deb Schorr
Mary Steiner	Mark DeKraai
Chris Peterson	David Steiner
Jerry Easterday	Gary Henrie
Pat Lopez	Beth Baxter

Teleconferencing

Kathy Anderson	Holly Fife
Christine Peterson	Elizabeth Dugger

A. Introduction of 4 desired outcomes

1. Outcome #1: Gain an understanding of the Steering Committee's role

Richard Mettler began by addressing the role of the committee. The people on the committee are leaders in child mental health and substance abuse. The group must be the leaders of the leaders. People were selected so that the work of the SIG Grant will have maximum impact. The Steering Committee will guide the policy and effort over the next 5 years. We need to convince people that this is something we can do and have a positive attitude about it. We need to be on the same page.

A concern was who will be the implementers of this grant. Dick Nelson discussed the implementation. The answer is that the committee will not be alone. Senator Jensen will work with the legislature and Commissioner Christiansen will work with education. In addition, the Lieutenant Governor is a member of the committee and many others will be able to implement our work after the committee makes recommendations. Today's focus is the clarification of the Steering Committee charter.

2. Revision of the purpose of the Steering committee

The group is to decide how the SIG Grant should move forward. First there will be an identification of specific priorities. The grant will focus on all levels of income. Income will play some role with things such as Medicaid and other income related programs.

The group will build on the best practices across the state. A concern is that children will fall through the cracks. That is why it is important to increase public awareness and influence organizations. A number of programs that affect children are in HHHS but not all of them. One important task is to get information and prepare ways to integrate multiple groups. The goal is to develop a statewide delivery system of children's mental health and substance abuse services.

The goal is to have a lot of primary work for the initial focus areas done by December

B. Outcome #2: 3 Sub-Committees, what kind of infrastructure will we have with them?

1. Academic Sub-Committee

The Academic Sub-Committee met last week. They will be focusing on developing standards for evidence-based practice. There are two dozen different schemes for evidence-based practice. They are developing a model for evidence-based practice that is easy to understand and that can be used for both mental health and substance abuse services. They have compiled a list of initiatives for children's mental health and substance abuse services in the state and will use the standards to help identify best practices within these initiatives. Another goal is to bring researchers together with policy makers and identify and resolve issues that would be the most beneficial to Nebraska.

The Academic Sub-Committee will work with the other two committees to bring items to the Steering Committee. They will help identify the best research based practices and to build upon what is working well now.

2. Early Childhood Sub-Committee

The Early Childhood Sub-Committee will be meeting later today. They will be working on the focus areas of perinatal depression and identification of at risk children as early as possible.

3. Youth Sub-Committee

The Youth Sub-Committee has two charges:

1. Develop strategies to decrease the number of children who are made wards of the state primarily to access mental health and substance abuse services
2. Develop strategies to incorporate family-centered practice into individualized plans of care for youth across systems

It is difficult to identify how many children have become state wards due to mental health issues. We need to know the size of the problem first. The Youth Sub-Committee will be working with the University of Nebraska through a study to identify how many children have become wards of the state to gain access to mental health services.

There is no prior research. Many of the case files are difficult to identify which youth fall into this category. If the study can identify the problems, funding can be redirected to benefit those who need it the most. The research will try to identify as many factors as possible. There is a need to find out what made parents decide to make their children wards of the state.

#### 4. Communication from the Sub-Committees

There needs to be regular reports to the Steering Committee. The minutes will be on the web site but it may be useful to have Steering Committee members who focus on certain Sub-Committees. The communication will evolve over time. It is important that communication go in both directions so expectations will be shared.

#### C. Outcome #3: Focus areas for each Sub-Committee need to be identified and prioritized by the Steering Committee

##### 1. Priorities

A lot of time has been spent in Sub-Committee meetings on additional issues rather than specific focus areas. A relationship needs to be established between the Steering Committee and the Sub-Committees.

It is also important to try to coordinate many things such as priorities for Sub-Committees, agencies in the area, funding and resources.

Important populations to be considered include state wards, children with dual diagnosis, transitional youth, substance abuse and child maltreatment.

#### D. Outcome #4: How will we measure success

How will the committee truly know they are making things happen the way we want them to? The draft logic model was presented to the group.

On October 24<sup>th</sup> Bob Friedman, Mario Hernandez and Mary Grealish are prepared to come and talk to the committee. They are professionals in the area and can offer advice to the group (FYI-This meeting has since been cancelled as of 9-20-05 and is rescheduled for Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>).

The committee may look at video conferencing for subsequent meetings. The next meeting will occur when we can arrange to have national experts come in.

Meeting was adjourned.